

PREPARED FOR JOURNEY

a body facing east
his face painted half red
half yellow
lowered sitting into
the earth
we mourn him
dirt covers just over
his head
a little house (like whiteman's
dog house) shelters his spirit
a little hole
medicine & coins dropped thru
he will need these things
on his journey
he will need the wild rice
jerkey & smoked fish
he will need water more
than he would need flowers.

BE CAREFUL

GO WEST

drag races in front
of our trailer house
we brave the montana cold
to witness
3 cars varoom
down the 2 lane hiway
only the red tail lights
visible in the freezing air
we go back inside
electric heater &
tequila waiting
john wayne on t.v.
on the inside
crazy drag-racin' indians
on the outside
our conestoga wagon trailer
alone
self exiled from
the rest of the wagon train
encircled by
firebirds & mustangs.

in ponema
there still are witches
people with power
people with strong medicine
they can make
you sick or
lame or kill you
you can't take pictures of
their medicine lodge
your camera will break
you cannot cross
in front of them
you will lose your step
hang a little mirror
on your clothing then
if they should try to
cast bad medicine on you
it will reflect back.

-- nila northSun

Missoula MT